

County of San Diego
Revised: January 24, 1997
Reviewed: Spring 2003

ASSOCIATE VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST
VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST

Class No. 004210
Class No. 004230

DEFINITION:

To conduct gross pathological, histopathological, and other diagnostic tests for animal disease control; and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Veterinary Pathologists are doctors of veterinary medicine that specialize in diagnosing animal pathologies for the purposes of disease reporting and control. Positions in these classes are allocated only to the Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures, County Veterinarian's office. This series differs from the Veterinarian class series in that Veterinarians provide medical and surgical services to animals at regional county animal shelters. The Veterinary Pathologist classes conduct animal autopsies or perform laboratory work with major emphasis on animal disease and public health epidemiology. These classes differ from the next higher class, County Veterinarian, in that the latter is the county's ex-officio Livestock Inspector, responsible for enforcing County, State and Federal laws and regulations relating to the health of livestock, inspection and regulation of livestock premises, the diagnoses of diseases hazardous to animals or transmissible to man, and for maintaining liaison with groups interested in livestock, health, sanitation, disease control and enforcement.

Associate Veterinary Pathologist:

This is the entry-level class in the veterinary pathologist series. Under general supervision, incumbents perform laboratory work and may supervise laboratory personnel and operations in the absence of the Veterinary Pathologist.

Veterinary Pathologist:

This is the journey-level class in the veterinary pathologist class series. Veterinary Pathologist reports to the County Veterinarian and is responsible for supervising the activities of the veterinary laboratory and independently performing a wide variety of gross pathological, histopathological and other diagnostic tests.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Receives specimens and animals from private veterinarians, citizens, the County Department of Animal Services, research institutions and other organizations; conducts autopsies and performs a wide variety of laboratory and diagnostic tests for animal disease control with major emphasis on livestock and zoonotic disease; reports findings to referral sources or other governmental agencies and takes appropriate action; conducts field investigations of animal disease; provides information on disease control and liaisons with various regulatory organizations and agencies; plans and conducts diagnostic research studies in collaboration with other laboratories and research institutions; and assists in program planning, implementation, and revision.

Veterinary Pathologist:

All of the duties listed above and: assists in planning, directing and administering County Vet programs; and assigns, supervises and trains Clinical Laboratory Technologists, histology technicians, laboratory assistants and student workers.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: AVP = Associate Veterinary Pathologist
 VP = Veterinary Pathologist

Knowledge of:

AVP VP

T	T	Vertebrae histology and histopathology.
T	T	Parasitology.
T	T	Virology.
T	T	Hematology.
T	T	Pathogenic bacteriology.
T	T	Mycology.
T	T	Zoonoses.
T	T	Veterinary epidemiology.
T	T	Serology techniques for common animal pathogens.
T	T	Animal husbandry.
T	T	Principles and theories of supervision.

Skills and Abilities to:

The following apply to both classes:

- Perform and report the results of a wide variety of laboratory tests.
- Handle a wide variety of animals.
- Perform laboratory work and conduct autopsies
- Read and interpret pertinent rules, regulations and policies.
- Communicate effectively with employees and the public.
- Oversee the work of subordinate laboratory personnel.

Veterinary Pathologist (in addition to the above):

- Coordinate and supervise the activities of a veterinary laboratory.
- Train and supervise the work of subordinate personnel.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training, and/or experience which demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities listed above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are: A doctorate in veterinary medicine; AND,

Associate Veterinary Pathologist:

Substantial experience in laboratory diagnosis and study of animal pathology. Post doctoral work in animal pathology

will be considered as meeting the experience requirement.

Veterinary Pathologist:

Four (4) years of experience involving pathology, diagnosis, serology or bacteriology in a diagnostic laboratory, research or teaching setting. Post doctoral work in a related field may be substituted for part of the experience requirement.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

License:

A valid California Class C driver's license or the ability to arrange necessary transportation for field travel is required at time of appointment and must be maintained throughout employment. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.

Possession of a current license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of California.